

Rejection 4: The Stickler invention is a two-layer pad, but envisions an adhesive property in the protective bottom layer (Col. 3, Lines 34-47). The present invention has a non-slip protective layer, which includes materials that simply have a high coefficient of friction. This is not anticipated by Stickler, who insists on specialized adhesive properties.

Rejection 5: Stickler applies the anti-microbial treatment to the lower layer of the mat to allow the mat to be partly permanent, partly removable. He treats the permanent part so that it does not have to be replaced as often. The present invention treats the fluid absorbing part so that odor and bacterial growth are contained and the absorbent part of the mat stays sanitary. This allows the disposable mat to stay in place longer than Jenkins disposable parts. This is plainly not anticipated by Jenkins.

Rejection 6: Stickler does not disclose the present invention substantially as claimed, see response to Rejection 4 above. The treatment of the present invention's absorbent material is after-applied; Biewen discloses an absorbent material impregnated with the anti-microbial agent.

Rejection 7: Creamer does not disclose the present invention substantially as claimed. As in Response to Rejection 6 above, in this invention, the antimicrobial treatment is after-applied. The examiners' assumption that any underlayer is non-slip and anti-curling to some degree is unfounded. The present invention is specifically designed and the underlayer specifically selected to be both non-slip and anti-curling. These are not accidental qualities for such an item and constitute an intentional advance over the previous inventions, which used adhesives, suction cups, or did not address the issue.


Applicant believes that all claims now on file in this application are in condition for immediate allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

New Claims

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8. A disposable floor mat for restroom floors and other high-maintenance areas requiring sanitation, the mat comprised of a flat face layer and a flat underlayer, the face layer fixedly attached to the underlayer, the entire mat completely disposable, the face layer made of non-woven polypropylene, the underlayer made of frothed plastic foam.
- A2
9. A mat as in Claim 8 wherein the face material is treated with Tinosan AM110, a product of Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation, an anti-microbial agent.
10. A mat as in Claim 8 wherein the mat has a notch cut in one side, said notch fitting around the front of the base of a typical toilet stool.
11. A mat as in Claim 8 wherein the mat is in a roughly rectangular shape large enough to fit under a typical urinal.
12. A mat as in Claim 8, wherein the mat is sized to cover an entire restroom floor, or a substantial sub-portion thereof.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this case, please direct any inquiries to Steven Webb at (760)635-7530, Fax (760)635-7531.

Respectfully submitted,
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